

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraphs [0001], [0041], [0087], and [0089] with the following paragraphs rewritten in amendment format:

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of United States Patent Application No. 10/353,701 filed on January 29, 2003 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,871,895, issued March 29, 2005). The disclosure of the above application is incorporated herein by reference.

[0041] Figure 28 is a partial cross-sectional view ~~taken along line 28-28~~ of Figure 26 showing a cross-sectional view illustrating engagement of the side panel with the floor panel and sidewall of the truck bed according to the principles of the present invention;

[0087] Alternatively, lights 350 can be provided with a connector 800 provided on the end of a wire 802 which extends to the filaments of the light 350, as illustrated in Figures 29 and 30. The electrical connector 800 is manually connected to a corresponding electrical connector 804 which is mounted to the tailgate 356. As shown in Figure 30, the electrical connectors 804 are connected to a wire harness 806 which is disposed beneath a tailgate panel 808 and extends through an opening 810 in the rear of the truck bed 322 and connects to a trailer light harness 812 underneath the vehicle. The connector 804 is mounted to a mounting plate 814. The plate 814 can be incorporated with the locking groove 604 and/or provided with additional structure for engaging the extendable wall sections 856b to the tailgate 356. In particular, the plate 814 can be provided with a channel 818 which engages a flange 820 (best shown in

Fig. [[2a]] 29) at the bottom of the extendable sidewalls 332 for prohibiting the extendable sidewalls 332 from bouncing upward when the vehicle hits a bump.

[0089] The vehicle 320 is also provided with exterior rear body panels 364 which are provided with primary stop/turn/tail lights 366 mounted at a rear end thereof. The primary lights 366 can be optionally deactivated upon activation of the secondary lights 350 when the side extension wall portions 332 are extended out over the tail gate 356. The switch device 360 is preferably positioned so that upon retracting the extendable sidewall portion 332, the plunger 362 comes in contact with a stop member (not shown) to cause the plunger [[352]] 362 to be depressed for deactivating the auxiliary lights 350.

[0107] With reference to Figure[[s]] 20A[[-20C]], a locking mechanism 600 is shown at an end portion of a side extension wall 332 for locking a position of the side extension wall 332 relative to the fixed sidewall portion 330. The locking mechanisms 600 are provided on each of the side extension walls 332 and include a locking plate 602 slidably movable between a downward locked position and an upward unlocked position. The locking plate 602 is received in a recess 604 provided in the floor of the cargo area. A similar recess 604 is also provided at the end of the tailgate so that the locking mechanism 600 can engage the recess 604 at either the end of the cargo area or at the end of the tailgate. A spring 606 is provided between the vertically sliding locking plate 602 and a stationary flange 608 for biasing the locking plate 602 in a locking position.

[0108] The locking plate 602 includes an upper flange or a finger 610 fixedly mounted to the locking plate 602. The locking plate 602 is slidably mounted to a

vertical column 612 provided at an end of the side extension wall portions 332. In a normal lock position, as shown in Figure 20A, the locking plate 602 is biased in a downward direction by spring 606 and is received in recess 604 provided in the floor of the cargo area. A movable divider panel 346 is supported in a guide track 334 as is described above. Upon depression of the operating handle 462, the stabilizing members 472 are retracted inward to allow the movable divider panel 346 to pivot, ~~as illustrated in Figure 20B,~~ about the support rod such that as the movable divider panel 346 pivots, the stabilizing members 472 engage the flange portion 610 of the locking plate 602. Continued articulation of the movable divider panel 346 causes the stabilizing members 472 to lift upward on the flange 610 of the locking plate 602 so as to cause the locking plate 602 to move upward, ~~as illustrated in Figure 20C,~~ so that the locking plate 602 is withdrawn from the recess 604 provided in the floor of the cargo area. Thus, by articulating the movable divider panel 346 to a horizontal position, an operator can simultaneously disengage the locking mechanism 600 on each of the side extension wall portions 332. The user then can pull rearwardly on the movable divider panel 346 and pull each of the side extension walls 332 out over the tailgate. Upon returning the movable divider panel 346 to the horizontal position, the locking mechanism 600 is then automatically returned to the locking position to engage recesses 604 provided at the ends of the tailgate (see Figure 11).

Please delete Paragraphs [0032] and [0033] of the specification.